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Ontario Department of Agriculture

FRUIT BRANCH

Bee-Keeping in Ontario.

ARRANGED BY MORLEY PETTIT, PROVINCIAL APIARIST.

DETAILED REPORT ON THE HONEY PROSPECTS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTIES.

For the purpose of reporting on the condition of bees in Ontario, and the Honey Crop prospects for 1911, blanks were sent to five thousand beekeepers last month by the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture. Six hundred replies were received, from which this report has been summarized.

The total number of colonies reported for the Fall of 1910 was 23,730. For May, 1911, it is 20,414. This represents a winter loss of fourteen per cent., which is five per cent. more than that reported a year ago. This also means that the remaining colonies are weaker in proportion, and are less fit for the work of gathering honey which the clover fields, weather permitting, will provide. On the other hand, the condition of clover is reported almost uniformly good. A few counties report "poor" and "below the average," and some "extra good."

While a spring report is of value in determining the present prospect of the honey crop, there is no other farm crop so entirely dependent on weather conditions from day to day during harvest time. Any sudden change from hot to cold will often check the secretion of nectar in the flowers and reduce the expected honey crop by hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The following is the detailed report arranged by counties:

COUNTY.	No. of Beekeepers on list.	Reports received.	Crop prospects.	No. of Colonies reported—Fall, 1910.	No. of Colonies reported—Spring, 1911.	Per cent. winter loss.	General condition of Bees.
Algoma	14	2	Good	56	49	13	Good.
Brant	80	12	Fair to good	379	338	11	Fair to very good.
Bruce	202	20	Fair to very good	659	553	16	Fair to good.
Carleton	106	6	Good	342	290	15	Fairly weak to good.
Durham	38	5	Poor to good	266	232	13	Fair to extra good.
Dufferin	61	4	Fairly good	228	200	12	Not very good to very good.
Dundas	51	6	Good to excellent	298	249	16	Fair to good.
Elgin	123	19	Good	407	350	14	Fair to good.
Essex	196	10	Poor to good	325	248	24	Weak to good.
Frontenac	41	6	Fair to very good	194	175	10	Weak to very good.
Glengarry	129	15	Good to very good	1,422	1,345	5	Fair to very good.
Grenville	58	11	Poor to good	306	283	8	Fair to good.
Grey	215	32	Fairly good	1,186	911	23	Weak to fair to very good.
Haliburton	12	2	Fair to good	18	16	11	Good
Halton	66	9	Fair to very good	310	259	16	Poor to good.
Haldimand	96	16	Good to very good	811	718	11	Generally good.
Hastings	120	20	Poor to fair and good	711	627	12	Weak to fair and very good.
Huron	163	21	Fair	1,197	1,048	12	Weak to good.
Kent	70	8	Poor to good	307	239	22	Weak to good.
Lennox and Addington	52	7	Fair to good	412	394	4	Fair to excellent.
Leeds	154	22	Fair to very good	844	713	16	Fair to extra good.
Lanark	78	9	Good if it rains	224	203	9	Not good to fair and strong.
[illegible]hton	187	29	Good to very good	786	701	10	Good to could not be better.
[illegible]	70	12	Not good to very good	452	400	11	Fair to strong.
[illegible]sex	322	33	Fairly good	1,853	1,403	24	Weak to very good.
[illegible]ltoulin	18	3	Average to good	178	138	22	Only fairly good.
Muskoka	26	3	Fair to very good	40	29	27	Average to good.
Nipissing	16	2	Very good	4	3	25	Good.
Northumberland	169	16	Poor to fairly good	368	306	17	Weak to fine and strong.
Norfolk	309	18	Good	576	490	15	Below Average. Weak to good.
Ontario	155	13	Not good to fair and good	542	471	13	Fairly good to first class.
Oxford	180	15	Not good to fairly good	419	343	18	Fair to good.
Peel	89	8	Good	681	626	8	Fair to good.
Perth	203	11	Ordinary to good	481	412	14	Fair to very good.

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Peterborough ...	48	4	Fairly good to a big crop	159	144	9	In good shape.
Prescott	97	11	Very poor to very good.....	523	482	8	Good to never was better.
Prince Edward..	64	8	Only fair	324	300	8	Fair to good.
Renfrew	92	11	Fair to good	695	648	7	Generally good.
Russell.....	52	6	Only fair	355	321	10	Good.
Stormont	67	14	General Report Good.....	700	597	15	Good.
Simcoe.	100	26	Fairly good.....	641	562	11	Fair to strong.
Thunder Bay ...	5	1	Fair	12	7	42	In splendid shape.
Victoria	72	21	Below average. Clover winter killed	1054	955	9	Fair to first class.
Waterloo	58	3	Good	21	19	9	Good.
Welland	99	10	Good but season late	371	245	34	Fair. More weak colonies than usual.
Wellington	122	19	Fairly good.....	363	286	21	Fair, extra good.
Wentworth	138	14	Good to very Good	293	246	16	Fair to in fine order.
York	222	26	Medium to good...	937	840	10	Poor, average extra good.
	5,105	599		23,730	20,414	14	